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TAGS: ELAB, BE, NL

SUBJECT: RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE FOR BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

REF: STATE 17436

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL ESTABLISHING REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE POSITION (POSITION 17-5610-276) AND BASED ON ACTIVITIES OF OTHER REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHES, DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL DUTIES FOR REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE FOR BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS ASSIGNED AT EMBASSY BRUSSELS. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 045560

A. IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING ALL DUTIES OF LABOR ATTACHE WITH REGARD TO BELGIUM, THE REGIONAL ATTACHE SHOULD NORMALLY VISIT THE NETHERLANDS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS. THESE VISITS SHOULD BE OF ONE WEEK'S DURATION AT A MINIMUM TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACTS WITH LEADERS OF THE DUTCH TRADE UNIONS BOTH AT

THE NATIONAL-CENTER AND INDUSTRIAL UNION LEVELS, GOVERN-MENT LABOR OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WHO ARE INFLUENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO THE NETHERLANDS FOR SPECIAL LABOR EVENTS, E.G., CONVENTIONS OF LABOR

FEDERATIONS, MAJOR LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTES AND/OR STRIKES, ETC.

B. THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE AND THE PART-TIME LABOR REPORTING OFFICER AT THE HAGUE WILL SHARE REPORTING DUTIES REGARDING LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS, AS MUTUALLY AGREED. THE REGIONAL ATTACHE MAY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL LABOR REPORT BUT THE RESIDENT PART-TIME LABOR REPORTING OFFICER AT THE HAGUE WOULD IN ANY EVENT ALSO BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THAT REPORT. A SIMILAR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE MADE TO REPORT OTHER SIGNIFICANT LABOR DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRING WHILE THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE WAS IN THE NETHERLANDS. THE LABOR REPORTING OFFICER AT THE HAGUE WOULD HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING MOST OTHER LABOR DEVELOPMENTS.

C. THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING BASIC LABOR TRENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR ON U.S. LABOR POLICY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 045560

AND PROGRAMS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

D. IN KEEPING WITH THE SPECIFIC LABOR REPORTING NEEDS
UNDERLYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE
POSITION, AND THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN 11 FAM
247 AND 10 FAM 400, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE REGIONAL
ATTACHE'S LABOR DUTIES IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS WILL
OCCUPY ALMOST ALL OF HIS TIME. NONETHELESS, TO THE EXTENT
THAT THE DEMANDS OF HIS REGIONAL LABOR RESPONSIBILITIES
PERMIT, EMBASSY BRUSSELS MAY MAKE OTHER ASSIGNMENTS TO THE
REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE PROVIDED THESE WOULD NOT INTERFERE
WITH HIS LABOR FUNCTIONS WHICH MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE. VANCE

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